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NATIONAL BLACK MBA ASSOCIATION® CLOSURES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Awards, Events Honor Legends, Leaders and Winning With Integrity

ATLANTA (TK) — The National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA®) closed its annual conference by honoring the people and places that have helped shape the black business environment and contributed to its legacy via the organization's five channels: career, education, entrepreneurship, leadership and lifestyle.

Many of the closing events paid tribute to the conference's host city and its noted track record of business success and innovation. "**Atlanta and Maynard Jackson: A Winning Equation**," an educational plenary sponsored by Wells Fargo that outlined the historical legacy, challenges, current state and opportunity of black entrepreneurship, featured panelists Herman J. Russell, Chairman and CEO of H.J. Russell & Co., the fourth largest construction company in the United States; Brenda Ross-Dulan, SVP of Wells Fargo; Sonia Booker, co-founder of Intown Condos & Lofts Inc., the largest condominium conversion company in the Southeast; and Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., NBMBAA Board Member and Chairman Emeritus of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. Jackson's widow, Valerie Richardson-Jackson moderated the panel, noting the moving video and verbal tributes to her late husband's accomplishments and speaking to his determination and conviction to forward the business environment for African Americans.

The "**Honoring our Past, Charting Our Future**" keynote luncheon that followed the plenary continued to honor pioneers and visionaries who have contributed to the vision, mission and direction of the NBMBAA organization. Sponsored by Bank of American Corp., the luncheon featured keynote speaker Dr. Therman Evans, CEO of Whole Life Associates and pastor of Morning Star Christian Community Center, who spoke to the idea that leading with integrity is born of being holistically grounded, saying that in order to maximize one's human potential, you have to be committed to caring for and maintaining your body, mind and spirit. NBMBAA Board of Directors Chairman Alvin Brown gave awards to Dr. Oswald Bronson, president of Edward Waters College and Bishop McKinley Young to for their contributions and Legacy Awards were presented to:

- Willie E. Gary, Esq., Chairman of the Black Family Channel
- Joe Leonard, Jr., Executive Direction of the Black Leadership Forum
- Marc Morial, President/CEO of the National Urban League
- Theodore M. Shaw, President of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund

- Rev. Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq., National Chair of the National Congress of Black Women

Additionally, Herman Russell was named the Entrepreneur of the Year. The **National Scholarship Program**, sponsored by Cardinal Health recognized more than 50 talented, dedicated students in an array of programs and disciplines. Entrepreneur, author and television host **B. Smith** served as the gracious mistress of ceremonies for the **Awards Ceremony**, the official closing of conference events. The “Sweet Auburn Affair” gala and dinner — styled as a throwback to the historic Atlanta district of the early 20th Century where black entrepreneurship and culture thrived — featured performances from R&B artists **112** and **Donell Jones**. “Sweet Auburn represents the history of our people striving to win, and is emblematic of the strong ties and connections we’ve had to one another that help us win,” NBMBA President and CEO **Barbara L. Thomas** said at the event’s opening.

The mood, spirit and sense of achievement and accomplishment that permeated the evening were best captured by NBMBA member Catherine LeBlanc’s remarks as she accepted her President’s Award, which brought many of the attendees to tears as they recognized her with a standing ovation.

“Coming into this organization, this was the place where we could be affirmed, where we weren’t affirmative action babies. It was an opportunity to take off the corporate mask and hold each other,” she said, recalling the infancy of the organization when so many of the members were the first and/or people of color in their companies.

“Friends from this organization threw my baby shower, they came to my home state when I was diagnosed with cancer, they took care of me and prayed for me — that is the nature, quality and character of the people of this organization,” she added.

There was also a lot of excitement around the 2007 initiatives Thomas cited during the gala. Among them:

- A junior high extension of the NBMBA Leaders of Tomorrow[®] program
- Continued donations to students affected by Hurricane Katrina, and
- A 50,000 total NBMBA membership goal by the end of next year.

“I look at the universe and see endless possibilities: I look at you and see the universe,” Thomas said, addressing the gala. “In you lies the future and all of the possibilities for our organization, and I charge you to take the call to win seriously, to be the strongest link to win with intention, win with innovation and win with integrity.”

Individuals and organizations received awards and/or scholarships in the following categories:

CASE STUDY COMPETITION

First Place Team: University of Stellenbosch (\$15,000)

- Pambili Booii
- Kagisho Mahura
- Fortune Ngwenya

Second Place Team: Hampton University (\$12,000)

- Leon Chisolm
- Nadja Frazier
- Petra Klimplova

Third Place Team: University of Georgia (\$

- Deirdra Glover
- Hakeem Rufai
- Tiffane Thompson

COCA-COLA COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Jaison Battle (Harvard University)
- LaTonya Clark (Howard University)
- Janelle James (Harvard University)
- Tahirah King (Belmont University)
- Erika Lewis (University of Michigan)
- Jacqueline McMiller (Loyola University)
- Floyd Newsum (Indiana University)
- Richard Owens (Howard University)
- Ade Patton (Harvard University)
- James Rollins (University of South Carolina)
- Tony Russell (Clark Atlanta University)
- Robert Stewart (Washington University)
- Ariel Terry (Clark Atlanta University)
- Jeannine Walker (University of Southern California)
- Lizette Williams (Northwestern University)
- Lingxiang Zhang: University of Minnesota

CORPORATE NAMED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Cardinal Health Scholar: Michael Salters (University of Minnesota)
- Cardinal Health Scholar: Diana Stewart (Rice University)
- Citibank Scholar: Zhalisa Clarke (Harvard Business School)
- Ford Motor Company Scholar: Logan Gaskill (Stanford University)
- Marriot Corporation Scholar: Rosebud Buruku (Wharton School of Business)
- Mercedes-Benz USA Inc. Scholar: Scott Thomas (University of Michigan)
- PNC Financial Services Group Scholar: Chris Thomas (Pennsylvania State University)
- Target Scholar: Gbemisola Ogunrinde (University of Pennsylvania)
- Verizon Scholar: Jason Cummings (Clark Atlanta University)

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR

Clark Atlanta University

H. NAYLOR FITZHUGH DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Brian P. Brown (Georgia State University)
- Toyah L. Miller (Texas A&M University)

HELPING HANDS AWARD

Clorox

INDUSTRY AWARDS

This year's program recognized the financial services industry.

- Ariel Capital Management
- Bank of America
- Citigroup
- Wachovia
- Wells Fargo

LEADERS OF TOMORROW (LOT) SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Nneji Akunne (Columbus chapter)
- Azia Alexandria (Kansas City chapter)
- Cheyenne Baumgardner (Columbus chapter)
- LaToya Boyce (New Jersey chapter)
- R'Taija Jackson (Houston chapter)
- Reginald Jackson (Houston chapter)
- Shannon McMillan (New Jersey chapter)
- Marisa Moffett (Detroit chapter)
- Katerra Shackelford (Kansas City chapter)
- Erica Woodson (Cincinnati chapter)

LEADERS OF TOMORROW/AXA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- Chinonye Akunne (Columbus chapter, Wittenberg University)
- Erica King (St. Louis Chapter, Saint Xavier University)
- Nadiath Saibou (Washington D.C. chapter, Hampton University)
- Jimmie Strong (Memphis chapter, Morehouse College)
- Aylse Taylo (Dallas-Ft. Worth chapter, Florida A & M University)

LLOYD TROTTER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Sponsored by GE's African American Forum and the GE Foundation, this program recognizes individuals with an ongoing commitment to volunteerism and mentoring.

- Kenrick Chatman (University of Michigan)
- Akosua Kyereme-Tuah (MIT Sloan)
- Todd LeBlanc (University of Michigan)

NBMBAA GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Veronica Cox (Duke University)
- Bettina Gardner (Garvin School of International Management)
- Kevin Francis (Northwestern University)
- Nevada Jack (Arizona State University)
- Amber Knox (American University)
- Derek Petgrave (Columbia University)
- Wyatt Schrock (University of Miami)
- Shanelle Swinton (Howard University; sponsored by Verizon)
- Terence Thomas (University of Wisconsin)
- Corey Williams (Clark Atlanta University; sponsored by PNC Financial Services)

NBMBAA NAMED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Berthan King Scholar: Dequiana Brooks (University of Chicago)
- Beverly Hawkins Scholar: Carla Franklin (Columbia University)
- Gregory Boyd Scholar: Nicole Thomas (University of Michigan)

NBMBAA UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Cleveland Northeast Ohio chapter: William Allen Davis III (Edinboro University of Pennsylvania)
- Columbus chapter: Ashley-Lauren McLean (Ohio State University)
- Memphis chapter: Tamiko Carnes (Mississippi Valley State University)
- South Florida chapter: Dean Johnson (university of Pennsylvania)
- Westchester/Greater Connecticut chapter: Tracy Toussaint (Monroe College)

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

- Catherine LeBlanc

SILVER TORCH AWARD

- Pitney Bowes

WILLIAM QUALLS AWARD

- Ford Motor Company

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About The National Black MBA Association

Established in 1970, the National Black MBA Association is dedicated to creating partnerships that result in increased intellectual and economic wealth in the black community through education, employment and entrepreneurship. Visit www.nbmbaa.org for more information.